

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for producing a colorant comprising:

contacting a dispersion of a powdery coloring matter substance in deionized water with an anion exchange resin and/or a cation exchange resin to subject the dispersion to ion exchanging until an electrical conductivity of the dispersion reaches
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$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ or lower, thereby obtaining a purified coloring matter substance;

contacting with an anion exchange resin and/or a cation exchange resin an aqueous solution or organic solvent solution of a binder resin prepared so that a carboxyl group concentration or a sum of a carboxyl group concentration and a hydroxyl group concentration is 0.001 mol/ml or higher, to obtain a purified binder resin solution;

kneading the purified coloring matter substance and the purified binder resin solution to obtain a liquid colorant precursor; and

contacting the liquid colorant precursor with an anion exchange resin and/or a cation exchange resin.

Claim 2. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

subjecting the liquid colorant precursor to an ultra-high speed centrifugal separation at 5000-15000 rpm after the contacting with the anion exchange resin and/or the cation exchange resin.

Claim 3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin is a copolymer of at least one polymerizable monomer containing a carboxyl group and at least one polymerizable monomer containing neither carboxyl group nor hydroxyl group, a copolymer of at least one polymerizable monomer containing a carboxyl group, at least one polymerizable monomer containing a hydroxyl group and at least one polymerizable monomer containing neither carboxyl group nor hydroxyl group, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 4. (cancelled)

Claim 5. (cancelled)

Claim 6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (cancelled)

Claim 8. (cancelled)

Claim 9. (cancelled)

Claim 10. (cancelled)

Claim 11. (cancelled)